

Appl. No. 10/772,832
Reply Dated August 12, 2005
Reply to Office Action of 05/25/05

Docket No. CM05200H
Customer No. 22917

Amendments to the Claims:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

1. (original) A method comprising the steps of:
 at an access point:
 receiving a multicast packet intended for a particular multicast group;
 determining whether there is at least one wireless subscriber unit belonging to the particular multicast group and associated with the access point; and
 rebroadcasting the multicast packet over a wireless segment only if there is at least one wireless subscriber unit belonging to the particular multicast group and associated with the access point.
2. (original) The method of claim 1 further comprising the step of rebroadcasting the multicast packet over a wired segment.
3. (original) The method of claim 1 wherein the step of determining comprises consulting a storage medium, wherein the storage medium comprises a list of wireless subscriber units along with their membership to at least one multicast group and whether the subscriber unit is currently associated with the access point.
4. (original) The method of claim 3 further comprising the step of updating the storage medium by detecting Internet Group Management Protocol (IGMP) messages from wireless subscriber units.

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5. (original) The method of claim 3 further comprising the step of updating the storage medium by receiving Inter-Access Point Protocol (IAPP) messages from at least a second access point.

6. (original) The method of claim 3 further comprising updating the storage medium by removing an entry from the storage medium based on inactivity from a wireless subscriber unit after a predetermined period of time lapses.

7. (original) The method of claim 1 wherein the step of rebroadcasting occurs if there is at least one wireless subscriber unit belonging to the particular multicast group and associated with the access point that did not originate the multicast packet.

8. (original) A method comprising the steps of:

at an access point:

receiving a multicast packet intended for a particular multicast group;

rebroadcasting the multicast packet over a wired segment; and

rebroadcasting the multicast packet over a wireless segment if the multicast packet signals an automatic rebroadcast of the multicast packet over the wireless segment; otherwise, rebroadcasting the multicast packet over the wireless segment only if there is at least one wireless subscriber unit belonging to the particular multicast group and associated with the access point that did not originate the multicast packet.

9. (original) The method of claim 8 wherein a bit in the multicast packet signals the automatic rebroadcast of the multicast packet.

10. (original) The method of claim 8 wherein a field in the multicast packet signals the automatic rebroadcast of the multicast packet.

11. (original) The method of claim 8 wherein the multicast packet is originated from a wireless subscriber unit.

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12. (original) A method comprising the steps of:

at a subscriber unit:

generating a multicast packet intended for a particular multicast group;

setting a first value within the multicast packet if the subscriber unit desires a rebroadcast of the multicast packet; otherwise setting a second value within the multicast packet; and
transmitting the multicast packet.